Study Guide for Test Three  
  
Note that there will be no written assignments on this test, only 50 multiple choice questions. About ten or so will be old quiz questions.  
  
be able to address the following:   
  
- the size and nature of the Texas budget.  
- the sources of revenue in Texas and local governments.  
- areas of spending in the state of Texas  
- income, sales, and property taxes  
- selective sales taxes  
- the size of state and local taxes  
- severance taxes  
- ad valorem taxes  
- regulatory taxes  
- benefits received taxes  
- progressive and regressive taxes  
- tax shifting  
- the budgeting process  
- the role of the State Board of Education  
- factors influencing who votes  
- the voter registration process  
- qualification for voting  
- the Texas Election Code  
- Texas campaign finance law  
- the poll tax and the white primary  
- what factors suppress voter turnout in Texas  
- the direct primary – closed and open  
- the goals of political parties  
- crossover voting  
- terms limits  
- midterm and presidential elections  
- majority and plurality requirements  
- chief election officer of the state and county  
- minor parties  
- electoral rules  
- ballot access  
- groups that identify with each party  
- the purpose/goals of interest groups  
- why do people join interest groups?  
- types of interest groups  
- lobbyists – the techniques they use to be influential  
- what lobbyist have to disclose when they register  
- the Texas Register  
- The Texas Ethic Commission  
- Iron Triangles  
- the revolving door  
- what is a political party?  
- functions of political parties  
- what do parties do? How do they impact democracy?  
- the disadvantages of minor parties  
- basic facts about party organization  
- the period of Democratic dominance in Texas  
- platform positions of the major parties in Texas  
- the New Deal Coalition  
- liberalism and conservatism  
- the growth of the Republican Party in Texas  
- realignment and dealignment  
- the Libertarian and Green Parties  
- the temporary and permanent party organization  
- the role of precinct and county chairs  
- the party platforms of the two major parties in the state